

IN THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith, as replacement sheets, are **Figures 38-40A and 40B**. Approval is respectively requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-67 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-18, 21, 24, 27-33, 36 and 39 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. No new material has been added. Claims 1-3 and 5-67 remain.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

In the Action, it is indicated that **Figures 38-40A** and **40B** should be designated by a legend such as “Prior Art”.

Enclosed herewith, for filing in the above-identified U.S. Application, are the “corrected drawings” labeled as “Replacement Sheet” regarding **Figures 38-40A** and **40B**, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.84(c).

Approval is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 28, 30 and 32 were objected to because of informalities as noted on page 2 of the Action. In response, Applicant has amended claims 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 28, 30 and 32 to correct the informalities as noted by the Examiner.

Approval is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH:

The Examiner indicated that Claims 1, 66 and 67 are allowed. Independent claims 2, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 21, 24, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 36, and their respective dependent claims, would be allowable if the objections and U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections are overcome.

The Examiner rejects claims 2-4, 7, 10-18, 21, 24, 27-33, 36 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-18, 21, 24, 27-33, 36 and 39 accordingly to correct all indefiniteness noted in the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been overcome and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Approval is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imaizumi et al. (U.S.

6,707,844), in view of Motegei et al. (U.S. 6,490,316), and Zscheile et al. (U.S. 5,504,787). In response, Applicant has amended Claim 5 and 6 as independent claims to incorporate the limitations of Claim 4 which has been cancelled.

In the Action, Claim 4 is the only claim rejected based on the prior art. Since Claims 5 and 6, as to which no art rejection was applied, have been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of base claim 4, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance. Similarly, with respect to the remaining independent claims, none of which have been rejected based on the prior art, Applicant submits that such claims, and the claims which depend there from are also in condition for allowance.


The Examiner indicated that only claims 1, 66 and 67 are allowed and that only claims 2, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 21, 24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36 and their respective dependent claims would be allowable if the objections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections are overcome. Although there is no indication of allowability, the remaining claims, namely claims 5, 6, and 39 since no prior art rejection has been applied to these claims, and since these claims seem to incorporate limitations of claims which have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art, Applicant submits that all claims pending for examination, namely claims 1-3 and 5-67 are now in condition for allowance, which early Action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

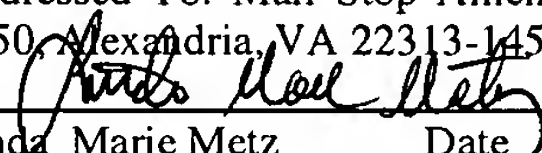
Dated: 8/13/07

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class Mail, With Sufficient Postage, In An Envelope Addressed To: Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

 8/13/07
Linda Marie Metz Date August 13, 2007